

nominations were reported without a single negative vote. These should be easy for the Senate to consider in a timely manner and confirm. Yet Republicans continue to stall.

The majority leader has had to file cloture petitions to cut off the Republican stalling by filibuster on President Obama's nominees 22 times. Four times he has had to file cloture to proceed with judicial nominees, only to eventually see those nominees confirmed, two which were confirmed unanimously. This stalling and obstruction is wrong.

We should be doing the business of the American people, like reining in the abuses on Wall Street, rather than having to waste weeks and months considering nominations that should be easily confirmed. Several Senators have gone to the floor in recent weeks and have been outspoken about these delays and secret holds on judicial nominations, as well as scores of other Presidential nominations on which the Republican minority refuses to act. Regrettably, Republicans have objected to live requests for action on these nominations. They have also refused to identify who is objecting and the reasons for the objections, in accordance with the Senate rules.

The action of the Republican minority to place politics ahead of constitutional duty by refusing to adhere to the Senate's tradition of quickly considering noncontroversial nominees reminds me of the 1996 session when the Republican majority considered only 17 of President Clinton's judicial nominations. That was a low point I thought would not be repeated. Their failing to fill judicial vacancies led to rebuke by Chief Justice Rehnquist. But they are repeating this unfortunate history today, again allowing vacancies to skyrocket to over a 100, more than 40 of which have been declared "judicial emergencies" by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Despite the fact that President Obama began sending judicial nominations to the Senate 2 months earlier than President Bush, the Senate is far behind the pace we set during the Bush administration. As I noted earlier, by this date in George W. Bush's Presidency, the Senate had confirmed 56 Federal circuit and district court judges. In the second half of 2001 and through 2002, the Senate with a Democratic majority confirmed 100 of President Bush's judicial nominees. Given Republican delay and obstruction, this Senate may not achieve half of that. Last year the Senate was allowed to confirm only 12 Federal circuit and district court judges all year. That was the lowest total in more than 50 years. So far this year, despite two dozen nominations on the Executive Calendar, we have confirmed only 11 more.

The Republican pattern of obstructionism we have seen since President Obama took office has led to this unprecedented backlog in nominations on the Senate calendar awaiting final consideration. We should end the backlog

by restoring the Senate's tradition of moving promptly to consider noncontroversial nominees with up-or-down votes in a matter of days, not weeks and certainly not months. For those nominees Republicans wish to debate, they should come to time agreement to have those debates and votes. It is past time to end the destructive delaying tactics of stalling nominees for no good purpose.

The confirmation of the two nominations we consider today is long overdue.

Judge Black has served the Southern District of Ohio for 6 years as a Federal magistrate judge. Before that, he spent a decade as a municipal court judge, and he also had a long career as a civil litigator. His nomination has the support of both of his home State senators, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH and Senator SHERROD BROWN, one a Republican and one a Democrat.

Mr. DeGuilio served the Northern District of Indiana for 6 years as its U.S. attorney. In addition, he has more than a decade of experience as a lawyer in private practice, and he also worked as a local prosecutor. He has the support of both of his home State senators, Senator RICHARD LUGAR and Senator EVAN BAYH, one a Republican and one a Democrat.

I congratulate the nominees and their families on their confirmations today. I urge the Republican leadership to restore the Senate's tradition practice and agree to prompt consideration of the additional 22 judicial nominees they continue to stall.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I am here today to express my unqualified support for the confirmation of Judge Timothy Black to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

I am proud to say that I worked closely with my fellow Ohioan, Senator VOINOVICH, to establish a bipartisan selection process that resulted in the selection of Judge Black as a candidate for submission to the President.

I would like to thank the members of the Southern District Judicial Advisory Commission, particularly Mr. Paul Harris, Chair, for all their efforts in vetting numerous candidates for the nomination.

Of all the candidates reviewed for this vacancy, the commission was most impressed with Judge Black. The commission recognized his leadership, his commitment to legal excellence, and temperament as qualities that make Judge Black well-suited to serve in this capacity.

Judge Black has served the Southern District of Ohio with excellence for 6 years as a Federal magistrate judge. Before that, he spent a decade as a municipal court judge, and he also had a long career as a civil litigator.

In addition to his commitment to the legal profession, Judge Black has exemplified a commitment to service through his work as a coconvener of the Round Table, a partnership be-

tween the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Bar Association to improve diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Additionally, his valiant efforts as vice president and member of the board of ProKids, an organization that represents abused and neglected children—Judge Black's service extends beyond the judges chamber and into neighborhoods and communities in which he lives and works.

President Obama nominated Judge Black last year, stating that he has the "evenhandedness, intellect, and spirit of service that Americans expect and deserve from their federal judges."

Judge Black is more than ready to serve and should be confirmed without delay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the nominations?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Timothy S. Black, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, and Jon E. DeGuilio, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana?

The nominations were confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate will resume legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

RESTORING AMERICAN FINANCIAL STABILITY ACT OF 2010—Continued

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following be the next amendments in order: Bennet of Colorado amendment No. 3928; Corker amendment No. 3955; Merkley-Klobuchar amendment No. 3962, a side-by-side to the Corker amendment; that the Senate resume consideration of S. 3217; that Senator BENNET of Colorado be recognized to call up his amendment; that after his statement, the amendment be set aside and Senator CORKER be recognized to call up his amendment; that immediately after the amendment is reported by number it be temporarily set aside and Senators MERKLEY and KLOBUCHAR be recognized to call up their side-by-side amendment.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask the chairman, after the Corker amendment is disposed of, is it possible to bring up the Klobuchar-Hutchison amendment and have a debate and vote tomorrow?

Mr. DODD. After the side-by-side on Senators CORKER and MERKLEY—after that, I would be happy to set a time and either debate this evening and vote in the morning, however the Senators want to do it.